

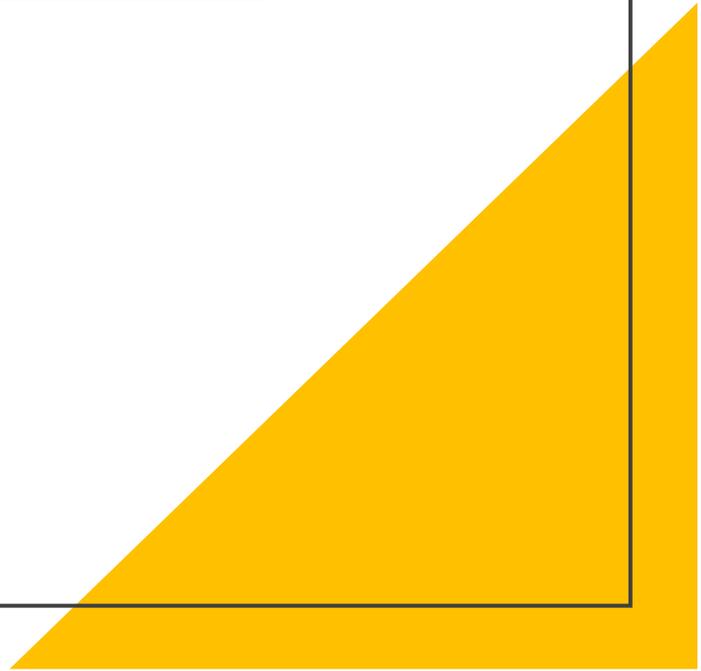


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**DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIES**

# **Considering Library Policies for Youth**



## **From ALA's Library Bill of Rights**

**"A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views."**

**Carefully consider every restriction on access to, and use of, library resources, based solely on the chronological age, apparent maturity, educational level, literacy skills, emancipatory or other legal status including youth experiencing homelessness.**

Access to Library Resources and Services for Minors: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights:  
<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/minors>



# POLICIES

## EFFECTIVE LIBRARY POLICIES ARE:

**Context-Specific:** They are written for a specific community at a specific point in time, and reflect a deep understanding of the community's assets and needs.

**Explicit:** Equity and inclusion are referred to explicitly as foundational values and as rationales for individual policies.

**Equitable:** They account for disparities and take into consideration the lived experiences of youth and their families / communities.

**Collaborative:** They are developed by a team of library stakeholders, including BIPOC youth.

**Youth-Centered:** They prioritize the needs and interests of youth.

**Compassionate:** They are positive rather than punitive.

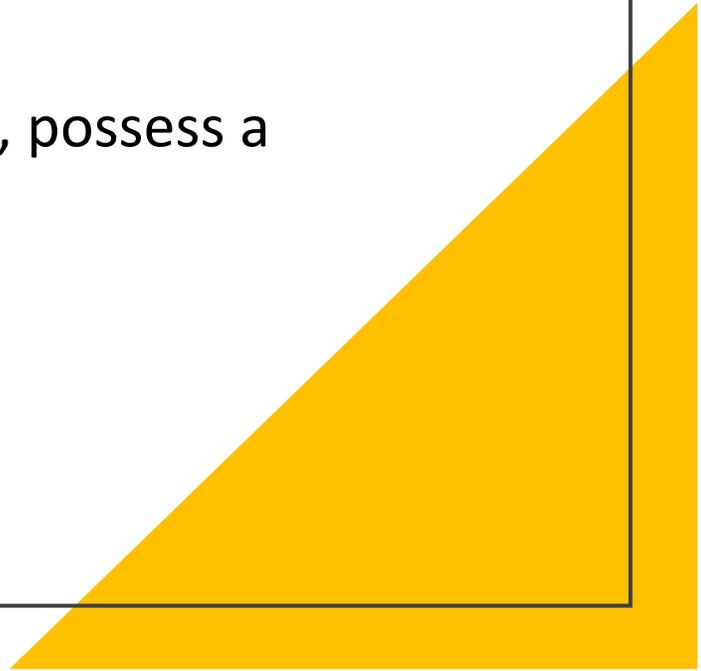
**From: Project READY: Reimagining Equity & Access for Diverse Youth**

**Consider the following policies and any differences based on age. Consider how policies based on age may be exclusionary especially those specific to teens.**

## **Policies affecting youth**

# **Privacy**

“All people, regardless of origin, age, background, or views, possess a right to privacy and confidentiality in their library use.”



## **Policies affecting youth**

# **Card Restrictions and Fines**

The right to use a library includes free access to, and unrestricted use of, all the services, materials, and facilities the library has to offer.



## **Policies affecting youth**

# **Unaccompanied Minors**

- Often, older siblings (teens and tweens) are responsible for supervising their younger siblings while their parents are at work.
  - Consider how policies could affect teenage parents from bringing their children into the library.
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Jonathan Clark

State Library Consultant, Children and Teen Services

(802) 249-3920

[jonathan.l.clark@vermont.gov](mailto:jonathan.l.clark@vermont.gov)